

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

\$365 million

Total USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) Funding to EMCA in FY 2014

\$280,000

Programs in Yemen with DRR Components

\$894,000

Regional EMCA Programs with DRR Components

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Partners Implementing FY 2014 Programs with DRR Components

OVERVIEW

- Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, wildfires, and extreme winter weather, affect a range of countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA)¹. In addition, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas. Protracted conflict and limited governmental disaster management capacity in many EMCA countries compound the risks associated with natural disasters.
- During FY 2014, USAID/OFDA responded to large-scale complex crisis in EMCA, while continuing to support DRR projects where the situation allowed. USAID/OFDA supported DRR programs in EMCA that measure and analyze disaster risks to identify and then implement risk-reduction solutions. USAID/OFDA also provides technical assistance and technology transfer to build communities' and local governments' capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.2 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING TO EMCA IN FY 2014

Stand-Alone DRR Programs \$1,173,283

\$1,173,283
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING TO EMCA

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.2 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives in EMCA that improve preparedness and aim to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in natural and technological risks and humanitarian coordination and information management to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA's commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed the problems caused by recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

¹ The EMCA region encompasses Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.

Global and Multi-Regional Programs Active in EMCA²

- **Strengthening Regional Locust Prevention in the Caucasus and Central Asia:** Three locust species—the Italian locust, the Moroccan locust, and the migratory locust—are a persistent threat to the Caucasus and Central Asia regions. With their primary breeding habitats crisscrossing national borders, these locusts could potentially infest more than 25 million hectares of cultivated and grazing land and significantly affect the food security and livelihoods of up to 20 million people, including in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. With financial assistance from USAID/OFDA and other sources, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiated a multi-year prevention program in the Caucasus and Central Asia that provides training, material support, and technical assistance to strengthen national and regional locust surveillance, monitoring, and early warning systems while institutionalizing preventive intervention strategies.
- **Frontline–Turning Community Views into Action:** To support resilience-building at the community-level, USAID/OFDA is supporting the Global Network for Disaster Reduction’s (GNDR) “Frontline–Turning Community Views into Action” program with \$500,000 in FY 2014. Building on findings from the USAID/OFDA-funded “Views from the Frontline” and “Action at the Frontline” initiatives, GNDR aims to gather local level baseline data regarding vulnerability to risks; utilize the data to strengthen resilience to small-scale recurrent disasters; develop a more integrated, multi-hazard approach to DRR and disaster management; and influence local, national, and international actors to support resilience-building efforts in communities. The data will also inform the establishment of new post-2015 frameworks for DRR, sustainable development goals, and climate change—all of which require strategic implementation at the local level. GNDR will support activities in more than 90 countries, including Egypt, with FY 2014 funding.

EMCA Regional Programs

- **The Joint Israel-Palestine Preparedness Project:** To create a more diverse, flexible, and adaptable humanitarian response to the protracted conflict between Israel and Palestine in West Bank/Gaza, USAID/OFDA provided \$280,000 in FY 2014 funding to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Program activities span a variety of existing and emerging responder and partner networks and include building national capacity for disaster preparedness and response; developing cross-border standard operating procedures; and establishing a regional committee to address preparedness and disaster response efforts and responsibility for project implementation.

Southeastern Europe Regional Programs

- **Southeastern Europe Capacity Building on Hydrometeorological Extremes:** With previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA supported the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to strengthen the capacity of national authorities throughout Southeastern Europe to implement hydrometeorological early warning and forecasting systems. To support national meteorological and hydrological service in the area, the two organizations created a partnership to reduce populations’ risk to climate and weather-induced disasters—such as floods, droughts, and landslides—by enhancing the ability of national agencies to predict events in advance and enabling emergency managers and the general public to take appropriate action to reduce the impact of extreme hydrometeorological events.
- **Seismic Hazard Mapping for Southeastern Europe:** Through previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) program to increase seismic hazard awareness and associated risk mitigation efforts throughout Southeastern Europe. USGS activities included evaluating the severity of seismic hazards and assessing earthquake monitoring capability and earthquake preparedness in the region. In addition, USGS

² Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside EMCA.

seismologists and earthquake instrumentation experts trained regional counterparts and participated in workshops to refine data on hazard, exposure, and physical vulnerability models.

Central Asia Regional Programs

- **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia:** Through \$500,000 in funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting OCHA in FY 2014 to improve information management and enhance preparedness and emergency response capacities at the local, national, and regional levels in the Caucasus and Central Asia. OCHA strengthened relationships among information management institutions and built the capacity of agencies to prepare for and respond to disasters through on-the-job training of staff at key response agencies, assisted in developing information sharing policies, and supported the improvement of regional capacity to undertake vulnerability analyses. OCHA worked with national disaster management offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as international humanitarian NGOs, UN agencies, and local community-based organizations.
- **Regional Coordination in DRR in Central Asia and South Caucasus:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$114,000 in funding to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) for the organization of regional workshops for government officials, emergency response staff, and local NGOs, to increase dialogue and collaboration on policy for regional hazard priorities. Program activities included developing contingency plans, policies, and strategies for DRR in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Country-Specific Programs

Armenia

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Armenia:** Natural disasters, such as earthquakes and flooding, frequently cause heavy damage or destroy vulnerable buildings and infrastructure, thus inflicting economic losses and resulting in deaths or injuries. With previous fiscal year funding to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID/OFDA supported the Government of Armenia (GoA) to implement a school safety assessment program to evaluate structural vulnerability of schools to hazards and promote safety for school children. UNICEF supported the structural assessment of more than 1,400 schools and also assisted the GoA to identify priority schools for rehabilitation and to develop a plan to rehabilitate and retrofit vulnerable schools.

Kyrgyzstan

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Kyrgyzstan:** Through FY 2014 funding, USAID/OFDA supported UNICEF to determine the structural vulnerability of schools in Kyrgyzstan to local natural hazards. Results from the assessment indicated that up to 85 percent of school structures required restoration to reduce their vulnerability to hazards, such as earthquakes. The assessment also contributed to the development of a national program for school rehabilitation, structural retrofitting, and construction.

Yemen

- **Support to the Rehabilitation of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center in Yemen:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$250,000 in funding to FAO to rehabilitate the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center in Yemen. USAID/OFDA funding supported the rehabilitation of the main building and storage hangars to reinstate the center's operational capacity and fulfill the center's role of monitoring desert locust breeding areas, as well as the implementation of a preventive control strategy.
- **Reducing Risk to Food Insecurity in Yemen:** Chronic food insecurity continues to affect populations in Yemen, with protracted conflict a key driver. Yemen is also prone to desert locusts, which threaten agricultural production. Through \$30,000 in FY 2014 funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support an interagency agreement with USAID's

Office of Food for Peace for the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) in Yemen. Through the program, FEWS NET staff conducted analyses and produced monthly reports documenting the current food security situation and projected outlook for the coming months. Humanitarian agencies utilize this information to identify vulnerable populations and inform program interventions to reduce future risk.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sector interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA sought to increase access to safe drinking water and promote improved hygiene practices; prevent and treat acute malnutrition; improve food security; and strengthen livelihoods throughout EMCA.

Country-Specific Programs

Yemen

- **Community Water Resilience in Yemen:** Political crisis, ongoing conflict, and a worsening economic situation continue to threaten access to clean water sources for a significant portion of Yemen's population. Through previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA supported International Relief and Development (IRD) to increase access to water and improve hygiene practices for vulnerable communities in Al-Maharah and Hadramut governorates. With USAID/OFDA support, IRD constructed surface-water catchment basins—which capture water during the rainy season and store it for domestic and livestock use—benefitting nearly 12,000 people in the two governorates.
- **Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Yemen:** USAID/OFDA supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through previous fiscal year funding to increase resilience among vulnerable communities in conflict-affected Abyan Governorate. The program aimed to protect and improve livelihoods by helping replace lost livestock and providing tools for income-generating projects. In addition, the program rehabilitated water and sanitation sites and promoted sustainable water management.
- **Livelihoods Assistance in Yemen:** Security improvements in southern Yemen during 2013 led to large-scale returns of displaced populations. To help establish livelihoods for returnees, USAID/OFDA, through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, implemented agriculture and food security activities in Abyan and Lahj governorates. Program activities included providing beneficiaries with assistance in developing small business plans and productive assets to improve agricultural livelihoods in fishing, irrigation, and livestock.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA²					
EMCA Regional	The Joint Israel-Palestine Preparedness Project	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	OCHA	\$280,000	\$893,746
	Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management		\$500,000	
	Regional Coordination in DRR in Central Asia and South Caucasus	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UNISDR	\$113,746	
Yemen	Support to the Rehabilitation of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center in Yemen	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	\$249,537	\$279,537
	Inter-Agency Agreement	Agriculture and Food Security	USAID/FFP	\$30,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA					\$1,173,283
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2014					\$1,173,283

¹ Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2014; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.

² The figure reported represents the integrated DRR-response portion of larger disaster response programs.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>